

2024 JANUARY



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

**CZECH REPUBLIC
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**
January 1, New Years Day
January 1, Restoration Day of the
Independent Czech State in the
Czech Republic

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Andrea Volf
Vice President: Rachel Taylor
Secretary: Sinda Dux
Treasurer: Linda Taborek
Festival Chair: Deb Vocasek
Board Members
Connie Jean Hulinsky
Diane Vesely-Robb

WEBSITE
Lincolnczechs.org
FACEBOOK
[https://
www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/](https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/)
NEWSLETTER
Contact lol@lolsrood.com
402-570-2333

MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, January 12

Reservations due by Wednesday, January 10

If you make a reservation but don't attend, we will bill you since we are charged for your meal. Please let us know if you have special dietary needs when you make your reservations.

LOCATION: HyVee 2nd Floor Party Room
1601 N 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68505

SOCIAL TIME: 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME & DINNER: 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Cost \$15.00)

MEAL: Bratwurst & buns, kraut, sides & drinks

BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 to 6:45 p.m.

PROGRAM: 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

TOPIC: Religion in the Czech Republic

LEADER: Rev. Karen Moritz

RESERVATIONS: 402-416-6390 (avolf83@gmail.com)

2024 CLUB CALENDAR
January 12 Membership Meeting
February 9 Membership Meeting
March 8 Membership Meeting
April 12 Membership Meeting
May 5 Lincoln Festival
May 10 Membership Meeting
September 13 Membership Meeting
October 11 Membership Meeting
November 8 Membership Meeting
December 13 Membership Meeting

3rd Tuesday: Conversation Club (Zoom)
Last Tuesday: Reading Circle (Zoom)

MEETING LOCATION
HyVee 84 & Holdrege

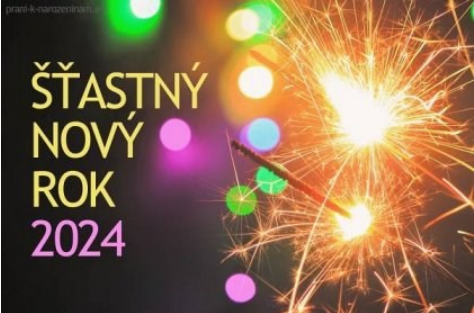
**RELIGION & FAITH
IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Rev. Karen Moritz
2023 Board Member



**MONTH AT A GLANCE
JANUARY**
Friday, January 12, 2024
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

You may have heard the assertion that “the Czech Republic is the most atheistic country in Europe.” After living and serving in the Czech Republic for 6 years the presenter has become convinced that a more appropriate assessment would be that “the Czech Republic is one of the most unchurched Country in Europe.” Less than 30% of the population claim any religious affiliation. However, one quickly learns that religion and faith weave their way throughout Czech history and culture. On 12 January 2024 the Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz will share her reflections and observations on this subject Karen speculates the Europe and the Czech Republic are about 20 years ahead of the US regarding the place of religion and faith. Perhaps there are things we can learn from their journey that will enable us to deal with the changes in religion and faith. Come join us as we reflect on this subject and our undoubtedly lively conversation.



 **WE MADE IT! We're 100+ Strong!**
We have over 100 members and we're still counting!
Let's Celebrate! Pojd'me slavit! 



Have You Considered Dual Citizenship?



By Mila Šašková-Pierce

The Parliament of the Czech Republic has voted affirmatively on the right of descendants of Czechoslovak citizens who emigrated to the United States, to acquire Czech citizenship, without having to renounce their US citizenship, resulting in dual citizenship. So if one of a person's grandparents or parents did have Czechoslovak citizenship upon his/her arrival to the US, that person is eligible to receive a Czech citizenship as well.

The process is somewhat complex, since one has to prove the national origin, citizenship and place of birth of his ancestor. There is a description of the steps on the site of the **Czech Embassy in Washington D.C.** Applicants have a right to ONE FREE call to answer their questions.

What are the benefits of dual citizenship? With the Czech citizenship you receive the European Union citizenship. You can travel and study without a visa, and have a right to work legally on the whole EU territory. Some economic reasons concern education. Universities are much cheaper in Europe, and many Czech universities have English language sections or majors. Studying in Czech after successfully passing the Czech language equivalent of SAT in Czech language! is free in public universities. You do have to be admitted based on your score.

For some people the Czech citizenship is an emotional declaration of their cultural allegiance. And don't forget that Prague alone has 40 theaters, operas, ballets, galleries, and then Brno and Olomouc, etc, etc.

There are no risks associated with Czech citizenship, but the paperwork does cost money, especially if you do not have all the originals and have to turn to Czech archives. Also translations are not for free. Note that the United States does not care about your dual citizenship, since only the US citizenship matters to US administration. If you do not work on the Czech territory, as a citizen, you do not have to pay taxes.

The site of the Czech Embassy page is: https://www.mzv.cz/kualalumpur/en/visa_and_consular_information/legalization_services/czech_citizenship/index_1.html There more on our website, LincolnCzechs.org.

Its on the **Links** page...under the category for **Czech Newsletters, Blogs, Etc...**last line item listed as '**Czech Citizenship**'. <https://www.lincolnczechs.org/links> or use this is the direct link to the YouTube video; [Czech Citizenship](#)

December 31, 1992 / January 1, 1993 THE VELVET DIVORCE Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State By Mila Šašková-Pierce

Thirty one years ago, the so called **Velvet Divorce** took place. It was the dissolution of Czechoslovakia into two separate countries, Slovak and Czech Republics. In 1989 during the "Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovakia freed itself from the communist party authoritarian regime. The issues that had plagued the country since its founding in 1918, however, still remained. In Czechoslovakia, the Czechlands, Bohemia and Moravia, had higher incomes, better industry and denser network of educational institutions. Slovakia was historically poorer, and became the "junior partner." Most of the governing institutions were located in Prague and political and economic decisions were taken in Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. Václav Klaus and Vladimír Mečiar, the prime ministers of the two parts of Czechoslovakia, met and on their own, basically decided that a split was the right thing for both of the ethnic entities. There was no referendum. To this day, there are many Czechs and Slovaks who feel that such a referendum would not have passed in either parts of Czechoslovakia. Regardless, the two states remain on very good terms and are closely aligned within the European Union. There is a close cooperation of educational and cultural institutions, such as film industry, theaters, and universities. Both official languages, Czech and Slovak, are mutually understandable. Their closeness is similar to that of British and North American dialects. Native speakers of the two languages have no need for translation.

NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

MONTH: January 30, 2024
TOPIC: *The Biography of August Geringer*
 (1842-1930)
AUTHOR: R. Jaromír Pšenka, Chief Editor of
 "Amerikán" Published in "Amerikán,
 Národní kalendář," 1923 No. XXXVI in
 Chicago Pp. 256-278
LEADER: Mila Sasková-Pierce, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

August Geringer was the publisher of Czech books and of the oldest Czech language daily newspaper in Chicago "Svornost." The English translation of the biography by Mila Šašková-Pierce and Layne Pierce, will be send out upon request.

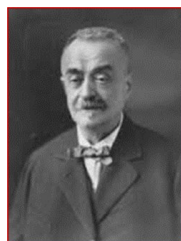


Photo left
 August Geringer
 Photor right,
 Amerikán, Národní kalendář,



OUR LEADER: Mila Šašková-Pierce

is one of the coordinators of the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Reading Circle. Professor of Russian and Czech Emerita, and former Head of the Less Commonly taught Languages Section. Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce has been at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln since 1989. She has published articles on learning processes; American Czechs' cultural history; Russian, Ukrainian, Slovak, and Czech languages in the United States. At present, she is translating 18th century Czech chronicle into English, with Layne Pierce. She has received the prestigious Gratias Agit Prize from the government of the Czech Republic for the Czech cultural activities of the Komensky Club at UNL and in Nebraska. Since October, 2017, she has served the Czech Republic as an Honorary Consul for the State of Nebraska.



Photo: Mila Šašková-Pierce &
 Layne Pierce, translators

READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

Lois Shimerda Rood	402-570-2333;
lois@loisrood.com	
Layne Pierce	402-770-5029;
layne.pierce@yahoo.com	
Mila Saskova-Pierce	402--770-4624
msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu	

THE COURTESY CORNER

Let us know if you are aware of someone who is celebrating something very special or is in need of our support.

Connie Jean Hulinsky

Chairman, Courtesy Committee 2023
 402-464-5184 (leave message)



Plán Českého konverzačního klubu

Leden: Sharon Valášek Cestování
Únor: Marie Sedláček Opera
Březen: Míla Pierce Média a internet
Duben: Linus Voves: Typické (české?) jídlo

Plan of the Czech Conversation Club

January: Sharon Valášek Travel
February: Marie Sedláček Opera
March: Míla Pierce Media and the Internet
April: Linus Voves: Typical (Czech?) food

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!



Via ZOOM
January 16 @ 7:00 p.m.
Leden:
Sharon Valášek Cestování
 Sharon Valasek, Travel

Participants should already know some Czech, either as heritage speakers, or former students of the language. Members can prepare material for the themes that are conversed about and share it with the club members. For information contact



OUR 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE!

(Above) Layne Pierce leads installation ceremony for 2024 Officers and Board Members
(Left to right) Andrea Volf, President; Diane Vesely-Robb, Board Member; Linda Taborek, Treasurer;
Connie Jean Hulinsky, Board Member; Sinda Dix, Secretary;
Not Shown: Rachel Taylor, Vice President and Deb Vocasek, Festival Chairperson

NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN, INCORPORATED Bylaws Committee Report

by R. Thomas Zumpfe, Committee Chairperson
Committee Members

Deb Vocasek, Layne Pierce, Connie Jean Hulinsky, Rachel Taylor, Diane Vesely-Robb and Linda Taborek

The Bylaws Committee has been meeting for several months to update and streamline the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln by-laws. It seemed like a never-ending project, but in the end it was a good thing. We have submitted the updated document to the Board. Membership will vote soon to accept the updated Bylaws.

I have been a member since 1993, and have seen several "updates" to the bylaws, but never to this extent. This time around, the committee dissected every sentence and punctuation... several times. We recognize that the bylaws is a living document. For that reason, we added a condition that the bylaws be reviewed every year divisible by three. The next review is scheduled for the year 2025.

Many changes were to clean up sentences for clarity, and to reduce redundancy and conflict with other sections.

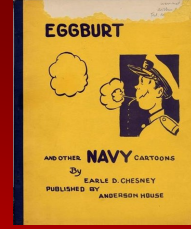
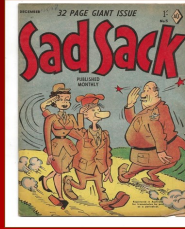
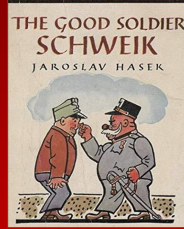
One notable update was to add the Festival Chair as a member of the Board. Another important issue addressed is that there is no minimum age limit to being a member. In addition, any member can become a member of the Board, regardless of age. We felt this was important as we have seen some very capable young people become involved in our Club. Since today's youth will ultimately lead the organization, and our mission is to promote our Czech & Slovak Culture to our youth, what better time to get them involved. Officers, however, must be adult age.

The Committee is gratified at the interest by Members in the updates, and we welcome your input and opinions. Please take the time to read through the Bylaws.

Keep in mind that the next update is scheduled for 2025, so ideas going into the Bylaws will always be fresh. Nebraska Czechs will be updating the State bylaws in the future, and we may need to make updates in line with the State organization.

I thank the Committee members for their dedication to this project: **Deb Vocasek, Layne Pierce, Connie Jean Hulinsky, Rachel Taylor, Diane Vesely-Robb and Linda Taborek.**

CARTOONS & WAR DID YOU KNOW



We've all heard of the illustrator **Josef Lada** who was the illustrator for the Jaroslav Hasek's World War I novel, ***The Good Soldier Svejk*** and who was one of the founders of Czech cartoons.

Most of you are also familiar with the World War II Army cartoons of ***Sad Sack*** by illustrator **Sgt. George Baker**.

Some of us also might be familiar with the Navy World War II cartoons, ***Eggburt***.

But I bet most of you don't know that Eggburt's illustrator, **Earle Chesney** was from **SWANTON, NEBRASKA**.

Earle D. Chesney served with the Veterans Administration prior to joining the Eisenhower White House staff on March 4, 1954. During World War II and the Korean War he served with the Navy. During his service in the Navy, he became famous as the cartoonist who invented the naval character ***Eggburt of the Navy***, who, like the Army's *Sad Sack*, entertained the service men and women around the world. Chesney was a very well-known artist specializing in caricatures. ***Eggburt and Other Navy Cartoons*** was published by Anderson House in 1945. He also has done thousands of portraits of many of members of Congress and high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces. The originals of many of his White House cartoons are on collection at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas. He died on April 29, 1966 and was buried with full military honors in **Arlington National Cemetery**. (Source: Wikipedia) (Editor's note: I don't know E. Chesney's ancestry)

Josef Lada
***The Good Soldier Svejk* (Czech WW I)**



Sgt. George Baker
***Sad Sack* (Army WW II)**



Earle D. Chesney
***Eggburt* (Navy WW II, Korea)**



More fun facts about Swanton...



Photo: **Willard Schmidt**
Nebraska High School Sports
Hall of Fame

Basketball player, **Willard Schmidt** was also from Swanton, Nebraska. He didn't start playing basketball until his junior year. He was coached by Hall of Famer, **Joe Sukovaty** also from Swanton. **Schmidt** led his team to a state championship that year. That was followed by many more successes for Swanton. **Schmidt** went on to play for Creighton University and in 1936 he was picked for the **1936 Olympic team** that won a gold medal in Berlin. **It was the first American team to win a gold medal**. **Sukovaty** brought his Swanton teams to the state tournament 7 times winning it twice and then he went on to Hildreth where his teams went to state 7 times, winning it three times. Read more about **Willard Schmidt** and coach, **Joe Sukovaty** in the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame.



Photo: **Joe Sukovaty**
Nebraska High School Sports
Hall of Fame

* The 2023 population of Swanton, NE was 69. Swanton's population reached its peak in the 1900s at 268.

Homestead National Monument

Dr. Bruce Garver

Czech Immigration & the Homestead Act

December 10, 2023



Dr. Bruce Garver (far left photo) gave a presentation on December 10th on *Czech immigration and the Homestead Act* at the Homestead National Historical Park, Beatrice, NE.

Sidney, (left photo) is wearing a hand-made Czech costume and was given a winter crown by the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, President.

The **Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures** runs through December 31st. CZECH IT OUT on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HomesteadNHP/>
<https://www.facebook.com/HomesteadNHP/>

Masopust 2024, Calmar, IA

The Czech Mardi Gras is at the PIVO Brewery in Calmar, IA February 10. We start the event at 1 PM with Malek Fisherman Band playing polka music! Doors open at Noon and tickets are presale only at \$40 each. We finish with a Silent & Live Auction and Czech Meal with Breaded Pork Cutlet and trimmings galore at 5:30 PM. **Czech it out!**
www.northeastiowaczech.com
www.facebook.com/czechmasopust

We are 10 minutes from **Spillville, Iowa** where the **oldest Czech Church**, where **Dvorak** played and composed music, is located and the **Bily Clocks Museum**. The Museum and church could easily be seen in the morning on February 10, 2024 before Masopust. Go to the Bily Clock website at www.bilyclocks.org and go under the "visit us" tab to book a tour. They are closed during the winter, but will open for people that book. If you would like to see the church, please mention that when you book and they can easily get you the info to have someone open the church for you. Spillville is a town of about 250 people.

The National Czech and Slovak Museum is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is about 2 hours south of Calmar, IA and could easily be seen on Friday or Sunday to complete a fun NE Iowa trip! www.ncsml.org
Decorah, IA would be the closest town to book a **hotel** at - which is about 20 minutes from Calmar, IA on Hwy 52.

Hope we can see some of you in Calmar on February 10th! Please contact **Audrey Lensing** with any questions about Masopust or **Czech Heritage Partnership**. CHP has a document center in Protivin, IA that we would be glad to have people come and see with a wealth of info on Czech Heritage on any day, except Saturday of that weekend. Audrey's info is audnovak87@gmail.com or call her at 563.380.3015.

An invitation to all the Lincoln Czechs from Audrey Lensing

THE CZECH HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP PROUDLY PRESENTS

The 18th Annual MASOPUST ~2024~

CZECH MARDI GRAS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2024

PIVO BREWERY
101 Huber Drive • Calmar, Iowa

Doors Open At 12 Noon • Serving Dinner at 5:30 pm.
TICKETS \$40 Advance Sales Only!

CELEBRATION
Begins At 1 p.m.

Featuring: Malek's Fisherman Band

Also Featuring:

- ◆ Scholarship Award ◆ Live Auction ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ Czech Style Meal ◆ Czech Skit ◆ Czech Beer

All Ethnic Costumes Welcome!

The Coat of Arms this year is Varvazov!

Contact Any CHP Member or Call:

- Audrey Lensing – audnovak87@gmail.com or 563-380-3015
- Ken & Lois Zajicek – klzcheck@gmail.com or 563-379-4100
- Eileen Tlusty – eilentlusty@hotmail.com or 641-229-6049

CZECH out our website at: northeastiowaczech.com
 FACEBOOK® - [czechmasopust](https://www.facebook.com/czechmasopust)
 The Czech Heritage Partnership is a 501(c)(3) not for profit Iowa Corporation.